

Traffic Council

City of Newton



Dear Newton Resident or Property Owner,

You are receiving this letter because you live on or near a street which will be discussed at the next meeting of the Traffic Council following a petition submitted for a specific traffic problem in your neighborhood. At this meeting, petitioners as well as other residents will have an opportunity to discuss the situation, hear the City Transportation Engineer's recommendations and comment before the Traffic Council takes action. Sometimes the Traffic Council approves solutions that aren't described in the agenda, therefore, residents are urged to become familiar with the issues, discuss them with their neighbors beforehand, and attend the meeting to offer their observations and ideas. Photographs and other media that describe the current conditions are welcome.

Attached is an agenda for the meeting as well as information about the Traffic Council and its process on the reverse side. If you have questions, concerns, or wish to submit written comments for the Traffic Council to consider, please contact Council Clerk Danielle Delaney at (617) 796-1210 or trafficcouncil@newtonma.gov.

David Koses, Chair
Newton Traffic Council

(OVER)

Who are the Traffic Council Members?

- David Koses, Chair, City Transportation Planner
- Jim Danila, Transportation Engineer
- Jerome Grafe, Resident Member
- Sgt. James Norcross, Police Traffic Bureau
- Allan Ciccone, Jr., Board of Aldermen, Chair of Public Safety & Transportation Committee or John Harney Board of Aldermen, Vice-Chair of Public Safety & Transportation Committee

What happens at the Traffic Council Meeting?

- The petitioner(s) describes the nature of the request.
- The Transportation Engineer provides background information.
- The public is invited to offer observations or comment about the item under consideration during a public comment period; speakers are asked to state their names and addresses for the record before speaking, and to be as brief as possible.
- The Traffic Council Chair closes public comment period and Traffic Council discusses the petition; the public may not comment after the public comment period is closed.
- Members of Traffic Council may take one of the following actions on the petitions:
 - **APPROVE** a change to the City's Traffic and Parking Regulations, or submit a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen regarding a non-regulatory matter.
 - **DENY** a change to the City's Traffic and Parking Regulations; if an item is denied, it may not be considered again for at least one year.
 - **HOLD** an item to be discussed again during a subsequent Traffic Council meeting to allow further study or additional information to be collected.
 - **HOLD** for a **60-DAY TRIAL** to allow the immediate posting of temporary signs for the purposes of field observations. The results of the trial will be discussed at a subsequent Traffic Council meeting before a final vote is taken.
 - **NAN**; if the Traffic Council votes "No Action Necessary", the request may be submitted to the Traffic Council for reconsideration again at any time but is no longer an "active" petition.

What happens after the Traffic Council Meeting?

A Traffic Council vote, with the exception of a "HOLD," automatically initiates a twenty (20) day appeal period. If no appeal is filed with the office of the City Clerk on a Traffic Council decision, the Department of Public Works may post the appropriate signs twenty days after the Traffic Council vote. Newly posted signs are immediately enforceable by the Newton Police.

During the appeal period, an appeal may be filed with the City Clerk to refer the item to the Board of Aldermen for final action. An appeal form can be accessed from the Traffic Council page of the City website or by contacting the City Clerk. Appeals require a minimum number of signatures (see form for details), depending on the type of regulation; certain appeals may be sponsored by any Alderman. An appeal that meets these requirements will be sent to a Committee of the Board of Aldermen. At this meeting, a representative of Traffic Council will explain the rationale for the Council's decision and the Committee then makes its own recommendation, which may confirm, reverse, or change the original Traffic Council decision. The full Board of Aldermen takes final action. **For more information:** Traffic Council website:

www.newtonma.gov/Aldermen/Agendas/TrafficAgenda.htm. Newton City Ordinance: Chapter 19, Article 2